

REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated February 24, 2005. Prior to this Amendment, claims 1 through 3 were pending in the application. In the Office action, claims 1 through 3 were rejected.

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1-12 remain pending in the present application. More specifically, claims 1-3 are directly amended and claims 4-12 are added. These amendments and additions are specifically described hereinafter. It is believed that the foregoing amendments and additions add no new matter to the present application.

1. Rejections under 35 USC § 112:

Claim 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112.

With respect to the 112 rejection, Examiner states: "Claim 1 recites the limitation 'a computer' in lines 5-6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is not clear whether the computer in line 5, is the same as 'first computer'. Clarification or correction is required. Claims 2 and 3 have similar problems. "

In response to Examiner's 112 rejections, applicants have amended claims 1-3 so that all terms have sufficient antecedent basis. In view of these amendment, applicants respectfully assert that there is now sufficient antecedent basis and that the 112 rejections of claims 1-3 should be removed. Accordingly, removal of the 112 rejection is respectfully requested.

2. New Claims

Dependent claims 4-12 have been newly added to further define and/or clarify the scope of the invention. If the independent claims are allowable over the prior art of record, then dependent claims 4-12 are allowable as a matter of law, because these dependent claims contain all features/elements/steps of their respective independent claims. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Additionally and notwithstanding the foregoing reasons for

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the allowability of the respective independent claims, these dependent claims recite further features/steps and/or combinations of features/steps (as is apparent by examination of the claims themselves) that are patentably distinct from the prior art of record. Hence, there are other reasons why these dependent claims are allowable.

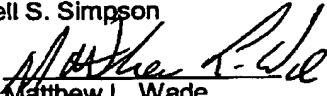
Conclusion

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (208) 396-5263

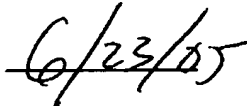
Respectfully submitted,

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